

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 ERDE-00 ACDA-10
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08
NRC-07 FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-07 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05
H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CEQ-01 EPA-04 /137 W
-----054524 161839Z /44

R 161551Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7297

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS LONDON 13632

DEPT PASS NRC AND ERDA

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, ENRG, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: WINDSCALE INQUIRY -- CONTINUED

REF: LONDON 13509 (NOTAL)

1. ON AUGUST 15 CHRIS HERZIG OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONTINUED TO BE QUESTIONED IN THE WINDSCALE INQUIRY. HERZIG MADE IT CLEAR THAT NUCLEAR REPROCESSING WILL GO AHEAD WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE INQUIRY: "IT IS OUR POLICY, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR STRATEGY, THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE BOTH FOR OUR MILITARY PROGRAMME AND FOR OUR FAST REACTOR". BUT, HE SAID, THE EXPANSION OF OXIDE REPROCESSING DEPENDED ON THE INQUIRY. "THIS COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE DECISION IN ITS OWN RIGHT AFTER CONSULTING OTHER COUNTRIES AND WILL HAVE TO TAKE A DECISION TO GO AHEAD AND REPROCESS OR NOT GO AHEAD. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THIS INQUIRY."

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2. THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE TOLD THE INQUIRY ON AUGUST 15 THAT THERE IS NO REASON SO FAR TO OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED OXIDE REPROCESSING PLANT AT WINDSCALE ON HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUNDS.

3. THE LONDON TIMES REPORTS THAT JAPANESE ELECTRICAL

UTILITIES ARE STILL UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE BRITISH FOR RE-PROCESSING SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. SOURCES IN THE BRITISH NUCLEAR INDUSTRY SAY THAT THE JAPANESE ARE OPERATING ON ADVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT THAT THE REPORT ON THE WINDSCALE INQUIRY WILL BE READY BY THE END OF THE YEAR. HOWEVER, SOURCES SAY DIFFICULTIES COULD ARISE ONCE THE JAPANESE REALIZE THAT THE REPORT IS UNLIKELY TO BE READY UNTIL FEBRUARY, AND POSSIBLY LATER.

4. THE TIMES GOES ON TO NOTE THAT JAPANESE HOPES OF AN EARLY SIGNING WITH THEIR BRITISH AND FRENCH PARTNERS WERE BOOSTED BY THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF TRIPARITE TALKS IN PARIS LAST MONTH. TAKEO MATSUNAGA, WHO LED THE JAPANESE DELEGATION IN THE TALKS WITH BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS AND THE FRENCH REPROCESSING COMPANY COGEM SAID IN TOKYO YESTERDAY HE HOPED THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD APPROVE THE CONTRACT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION AT THE PARIS TALKS THAT BRITAIN HAD CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE TO DELAY. IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT THAT UNLESS THE UK SIDE IS SIGNED BY YEAR'S END, THE FACILITIES FOR RECEIVING THE SPENT FUEL WILL NOT BE READY TO MEET THE 1982 START-UP DATE. MATSUNAGA DENIED SPECULATION THAT JAPAN WOULD SIGN SEPARATE CONTRACTS WITH FRANCE AND BRITAIN.

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STREATOR

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: WINDSCALE INQUIRY -- CONTINUED
TAGS: MNUC, ENRG, TECH, UK, (HERZIG, CHRIS)
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